

Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-15 /027 W

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P 121640Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4131

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 4439

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL

SUBJECT: CORFU FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 14795

1. POST EQUALLY DISAPPOINTED UNTIMELY CANCELLATION CORFU FESTIVAL. LACK ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES REASON FESTIVAL CALLED OFF. PROMISED GOG MINISTRY OF CULTURE FUNDS DID NOT MATERIALIZE THOUGH MORAL AND FACILITATIVE SUPPORT PRESENT. LAST YEAR FESTIVAL RECEIVED SIZABLE (30,000 DOLLARS) CONTRIBUTION FROM MINISTRY. (NOTE: EMBASSY NOT SURPRISED MINISTRY SUPPORT NOT FORTHCOMING AS MOST GOG EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL OPERATIONS HAVE EXPERIENCED SEVERE BUDGET CUTS DURING RECENT MONTHS AS PART EFFORTS TO STABILIZE ECONOMY.

2. FESTIVAL DIRECTOR MICHAEL SISK ALSO FOUND THAT DUE TO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM ENERGY CRISIS OLYMPIC AIRLINES WAS UNABLE PROVIDE 50 PERCENT AIR FARE DISCOUNT WHICH HE HAD BELIEVED WOULD BE GRANTED. IN ADDITION, BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ENGLAND, SEVERAL BRITISH BACKERS WITHDREW THEIR PROMISED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

3. EMBASSY CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC SECTIONS WORKED CLOSELY WITH FESTIVAL DIRECTOR WHEN HE BEGAN LAST MINUTE EFFORTS NEGOTIATE WITH MINISTRY AND RAISE NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM AMERICAN BUSINESSES OPERATING IN GREECE. WHILE SEVERAL FIRMS WERE SYMPATHETIC, THEY COULD NOT PRODUCE NEEDED FUNDS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR TASCA GAVE HIS FULL BACKING TO THE FESTIVAL AND MADE A

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NUMBER OF PERSONAL GESTURES TO PROMOTE THE FESTIVAL.

TASCA

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: SOCIAL CUSTOMS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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